

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Information Bulletin No. NV-2000-133

To: Field Managers , Nevada

From: Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands and Planning

Subject: Approval of Guidelines Developed by BLM Nevada Resource Advisory Councils

The three Nevada Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) are working on guidelines for rangeland uses in addition to livestock grazing. The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to outline procedures for review and approval of such guidelines. The standards for rangeland health developed by the RACs and approved by the Secretary in 1997 are deemed to be the standards that will apply to subsequent guidelines for uses of the rangelands. With the exception of a standard for the health of wild horses, the only animals for which BLM is responsible, no further development of additional standards is anticipated.

Once a RAC completes recommendation on guidelines, the following process for approval shall be implemented:

1. The Field Offices involved will conduct an assessment to determine if the proposal is technically adequate and is in conformance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies to assure further consideration is warranted.
2. Each Field Office involved will complete an assessment to determine if the proposal is in conformance with the land use plan(s) currently in effect, and if the proposal is in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
3. The delegated designated federal official (DDFO) will mail the proposed guidelines to interested parties to advise them of the pending action. Although the guidelines are developed in RAC meetings which are widely noticed public meetings, the mailing will provide interested parties with a final opportunity to raise concerns.

4. If any concerns are raised by those notified, the appropriate Field Manager may contact the concerned parties if clarification is needed. In addition, Field Offices may conduct briefings for key interest groups, state organizations or agencies. RAC members will be encouraged to participate in these briefings.

5. Once the concerns are fully and appropriately addressed, the DDFO will provide the guidelines through the Division of Natural Resources, Lands and Planning (NV-930) to the State Director for approval. NV-930 will review the guidelines for statewide consistency.

6. Once approved by the State Director, the Field Manager(s) will incorporate the guidelines into the LUP through either: 1) an amendment to the LUP if the guidelines are not in compliance, or 2) maintenance of the plan if they are in conformance with the plan.

Field Managers will keep the RACs informed on the status of their recommendation.

Signed By:
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